
NEWS RELEASE

Judd Gregg

United States Senator for New Hampshire
393 Russell Building, Washington, D.C. 202-224-3324 www.senate.gov/~gregg/



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Contact: Erin Rath/Jeff Turcotte

\$7 MILLION FOR GRANITE STREET BRIDGE PROJECT INCLUDED BY SENATOR GREGG APPROVED BY FULL SENATE

Funding follows \$8 million secured by Senator last year, will complete funding for project

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH), a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, today announced that \$7 million in federal funding dedicated to widening the Granite Street Bridge and upgrading Granite Street into downtown Manchester cleared a major hurdle and is included in the Fiscal Year 2004 Transportation Appropriations bill that was approved by the full Senate tonight by a vote of 91-3. The measure will now go to a joint House/Senate Conference where any differences with the House of Representatives will be worked out. Senator Gregg was able to secure \$8 million for the project in Fiscal Year 2003, which in conjunction with this award, will comprise a significant portion of the cost of the upgrades.

Senator Gregg stated, "It is great news for the City of Manchester and all of New Hampshire that the Senate acted quickly to approve this appropriations measure, which includes crucial funding for the Granite Street project. This project truly represents a lifeline into and out of downtown Manchester, and once completed, will provide a tremendous benefit for years to come. Downtown Manchester is really experiencing a growth with the Verizon Wireless Arena and with the new baseball stadium to come, and it is imperative that the infrastructure is in place to allow everyone to enjoy the great jewels of the Queen City."

In September, when the project was approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee, Manchester Mayor Bob Baines stated, "I am extremely pleased to hear that the Granite Street project will continue as planned and I want to commend Senator Gregg for his efforts on the City's behalf. Throughout his tenure in Washington, has always put the interests of New Hampshire's largest city at the top of his list."

Executive Councilor Ray Wieczorek stated in September, "This is terrific news. The Granite Street and Granite Street Bridge renovation project is a critical link to bringing people and business into the City of Manchester. The funding secured by Senator Gregg will provide a dramatic and

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attractive gateway to support the vital economic, cultural and business growth that has occurred and continues to expand in Manchester's downtown. All of New Hampshire wins through the successful

efforts of our senior senator and I certainly appreciate all he has done and continues to do on our behalf.”

Earlier this fall, President and CEO of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce Robin Comstock stated, “We applaud Senator Gregg for his commitment to New Hampshire with his efforts to secure the crucial Phase Two funding for the Granite Street Expansion Project. This is an essential project for the State that ensure that Manchester’s Granite Street Gateway will have the capacity to welcome the thousands of visitors who visit Manchester each year for business and entertainment. The timing of this funding comes at a time of critical importance as the City moves forward with its key economic development strategy to tie the Merrimack River to Downtown.”

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